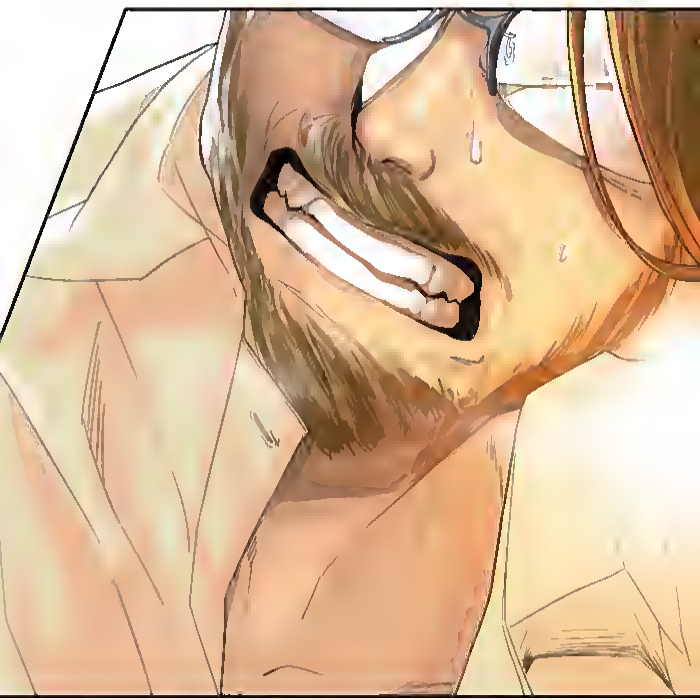
ART / STORY BY HAGA

CLASH



IT WAS
WARM

IT WAS
BIG

AND KIND .

IT USED TO MAKE
MY HEART RACE.

I REMEMBER THIS HAND.

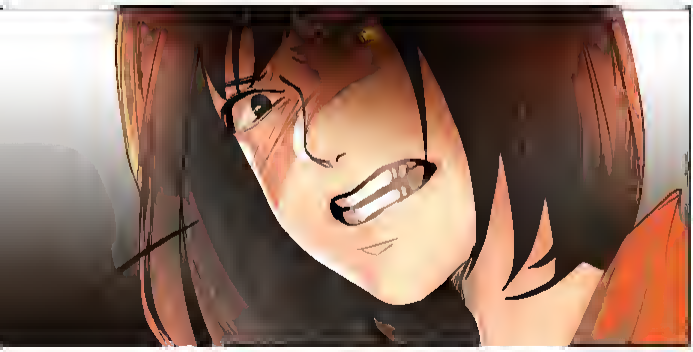
HUFF
HUFF

AH!
NO..
IT COULDN'T BE HIM.
THAT WAS ONLY 10 YEARS AGO.

THERE'S NO WAY HE'S THIS OLD MAN. IT MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE.
SIGH..
THAT'S THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT.
WHY WOULD YOU GO IN THERE? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW DANGEROUS IT IS?
T-THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. I'LL GO WHEREVER I WANT..

HOW IS THIS NONE OF MY BUSINESS?
YET
AM I SUPPOSED TO JUST STAND BY AND WATCH AS A YOUNG AND HEALTHY LADY GOES AND RUINS HER LIFE?

.....!
FLINCH



SKOVE

DON'T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW ME! HEALTHY? DO I LOOK HEALTHY TO YOU??
DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME TO WALK AROUND LIKE THIS WHEN I'VE NEVER EVEN HAD TO WALK BEFORE?!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS HOW MANY MEALS I'VE MISSED?
TREMBLE

S-SITA
FLINCH
I MAY HAVE BEEN TOO STUPID TO REALIZE
THAT I HAVE TO PAY TO EAT IN RESTAURANTS OR CAN T SLEEP IN A HOUSE WHICH DOESN T BELONG TO ME-

I MAY HAVE ALSO BEEN TOO STUPID TO REALIZE THAT MY FAMILY HAD ABANDONED ME,
BUT I KNEW VERY WELL WHAT KIND OF PLACE I WAS GOING INTO!
THIS IS THE ONLY THING I CAN DO

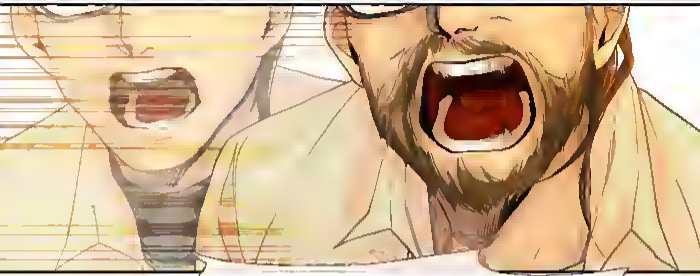
I'LL GIVE THIS CURSED BODY OF MINE OVER TO AS MANY MEN AS WILL HAVE ME.
HAH,
I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO.

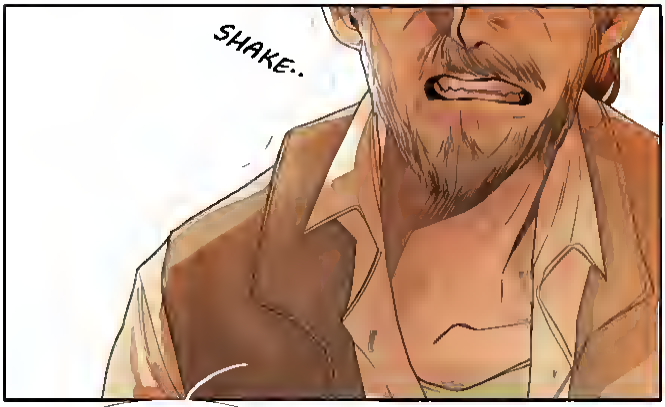
PEOPLE DON'T EVEN WANNA TOUCH ME ANY MORE.
IF THEY PAY ME!
I'LL LET THEM DO WHATEVER THEY WANT!!

SLAP!

IF YOU GO IN THERE..
YOU'LL REGRET IT VERY SOON
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

YOU.. YOU WILL..


ARE YOU REALLY OKAY
WITH THROWING YOUR LIFE AWAY
FOR SOME MONEY?!

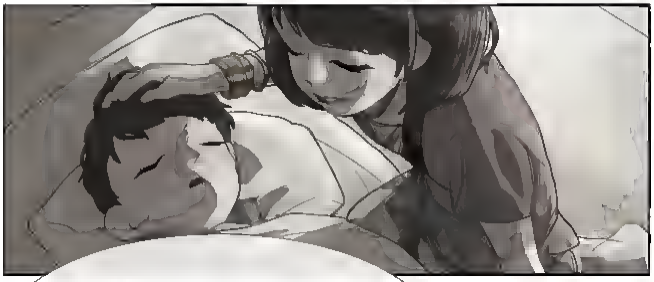


SNAP OUT OF IT.

YOU'RE NOT EVEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

NO ONE DESERVES THE KIND OF LIFE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

THIS ISN'T YOU. YOU'RE A GOOD KID.
YOU...



FORGET ABOUT YOUR HUNGER AND YOUR DISCOMFORT AND JUST LOOK AT YOURSELF!

YOU'LL DIE IN THERE.

BUT NOW I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO..

ARGH
.....
AGH
WHACK

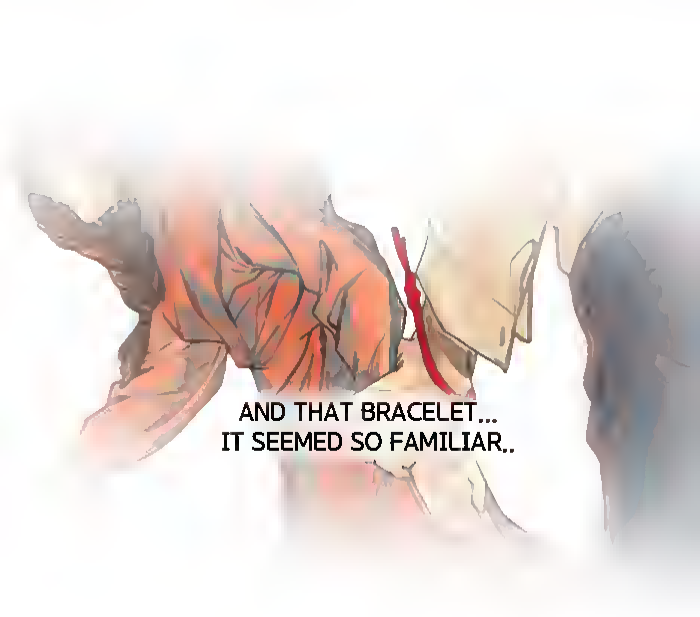
SITA, WAIT!
STEP
STEP
WHATEVER.

HUFF
HUFF
I THOUGHT THAT NO MATTER WHAT I DO,
THINGS COULDN'T GET WORSE THAN THEY ARE,
HUFF

...UGH,
MY EYES ARE SORE
AND I'M SO THIRSTY.
STAND
.....
BUT..
I FEEL KINDA
REFRESHED...
HOW LONG'S IT BEEN
SINCE I LAST CRIED
LIKE THAT?
BUT THAT OLD MAN..
I HEARD HIM SAY MY NAME
AT LEAST TWICE.
HOW'D HE
KNOW IT?
WELL, HE MIGHT'VE
SEEN ME WHEN
I WAS A KUMARI.

SINCE THOSE GUYS AT THE RESTAURANT RECOGNIZED ME TOO, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.
PLOP

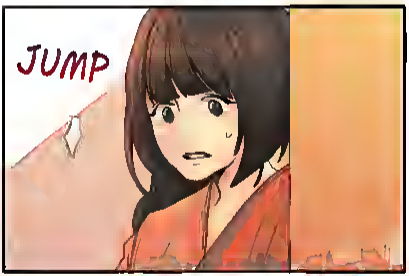
BUT THAT HAND...

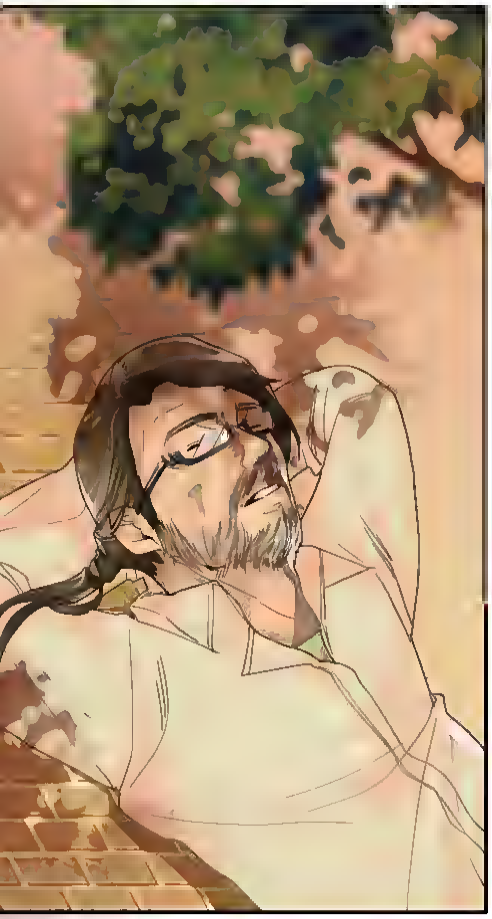


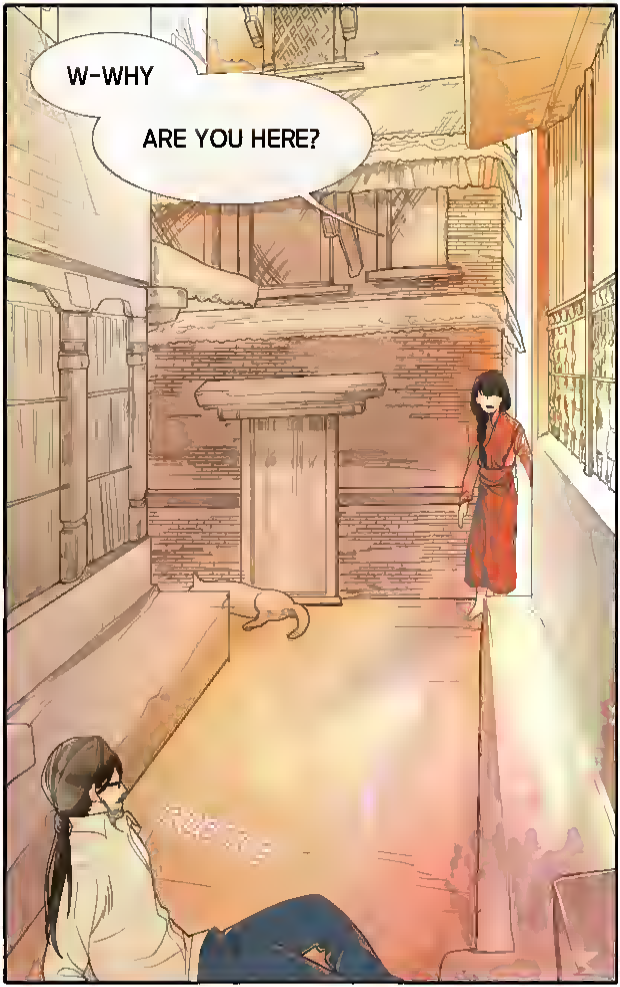
BREEZE

BREEZE

STEP

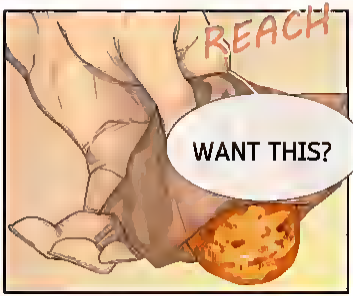

JUMP

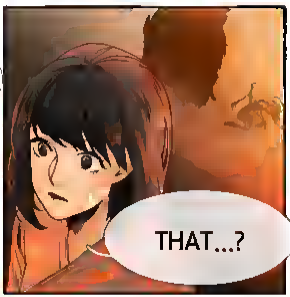



W-WHY
ARE YOU HERE?

.....
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I'VE ALWAYS COME HERE TO TAKE NAPS.
W-WELL YOU CAN'T JUST SLEEP HERE!
DO YOU OWN THIS WHOLE AREA?
N-NO.. BUT..

AGAIN?
SNORE
ARE YOU SERIOUS...
YAWN..
URGH...!
HAHA

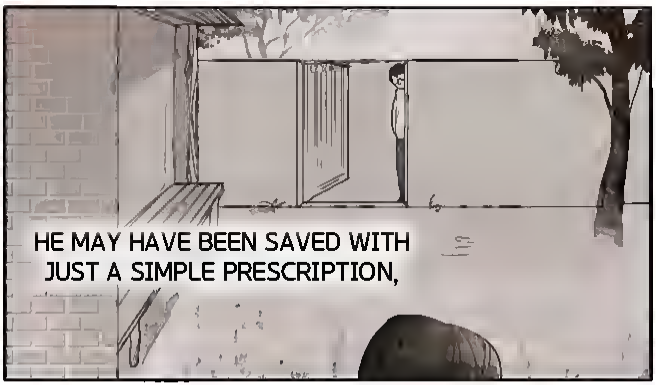

REACH
WANT THIS?


THAT...?

THEN I'LL HAVE IT
I'LL HAVE IT! GIVE IT TO ME. PLEASE!!!
AAH~
GRAB
YUM
!

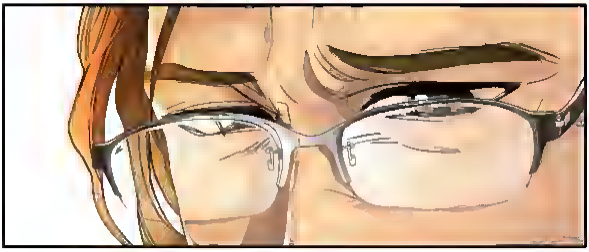
IT'S SO GOOD...
DON'T EAT IT TOO QUICKLY.
REACH
MUNCH MUNCH
ACTUALLY, I'M NOT FROM NEPAL.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I USED TO SAVE PEOPLE IN MY OWN COUNTRY, BUT I WAS STILL JUST A MEDIOCRE DOCTOR.
AROUND HERE, THERE WAS A DYING BOY HERE WHOM I COULDN'T SAVE FROM A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE.


HE MAY HAVE BEEN SAVED WITH
JUST A SIMPLE PRESCRIPTION,

BUT I DIDNT HAVE
THE COURAGE.

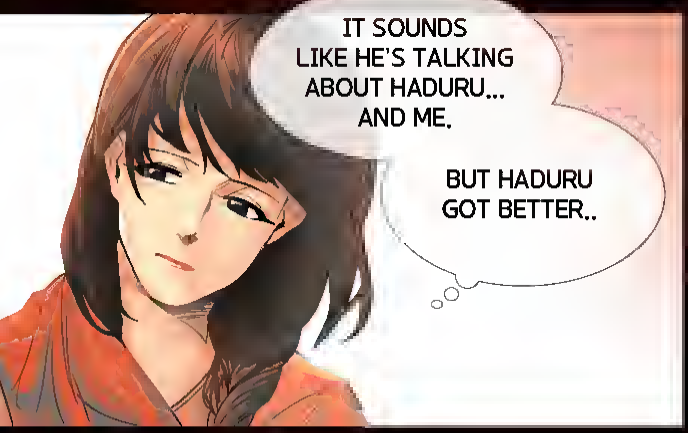
SINCE I'M HERE,
BUT NOT REALLY A PART OF THIS PLACE



I WAS AFRAID THAT IF I CHANGED
THE PAST TOO MUCH

I MIGHT END UP VANISHING

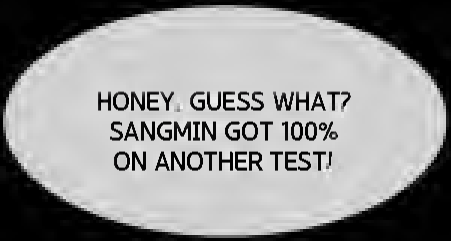
A FAMILY THAT LEFT WITH A DYING SON?



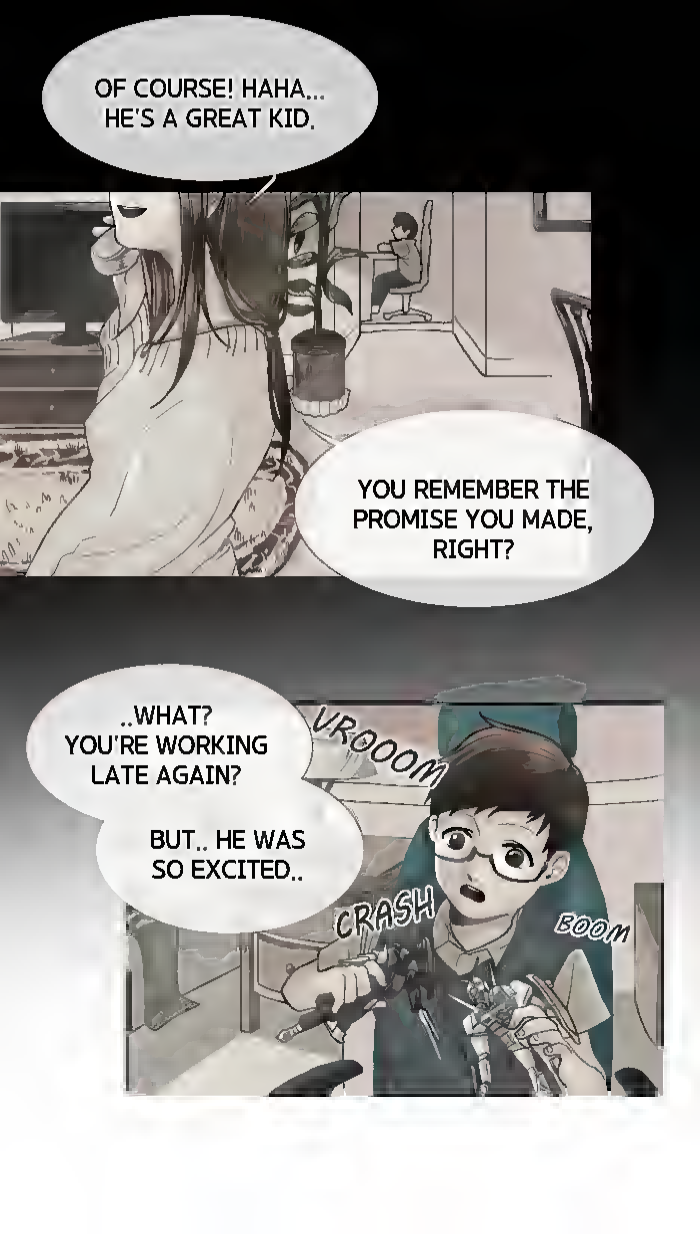
MISTER. WHY'D YOU COME TO NEPAL?

THEN I MIGHT NOT BE
ABLE TO SAVE YOU AGAIN..

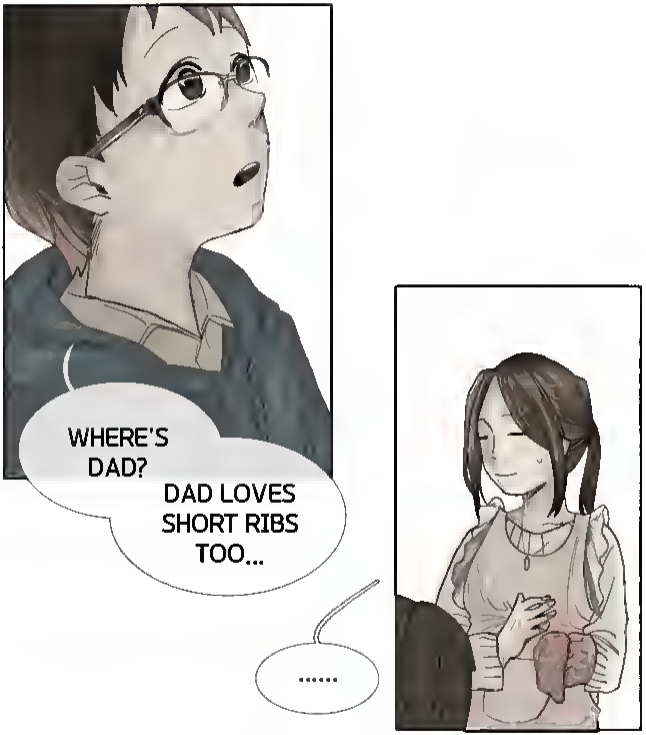
.....


HONEY. GUESS WHAT?
SANGMIN GOT 100%
ON ANOTHER TEST!

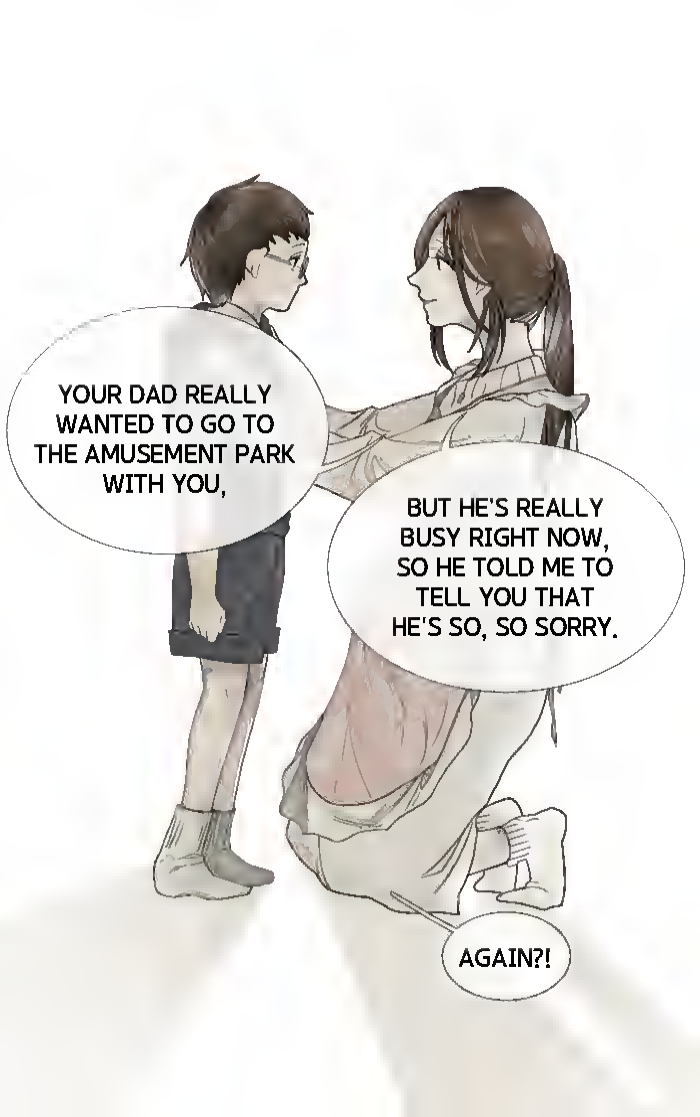
I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TAKE ACTION, AND AFTER HESITATING FOR A FEW DAYS
ONE DAY, THE WHOLE FAMILY HAD MOVED AWAY AND THE HOUSE WAS EMPTY.
THEY PROBABLY HAD TO MAKE A VERY TOUGH DECISION

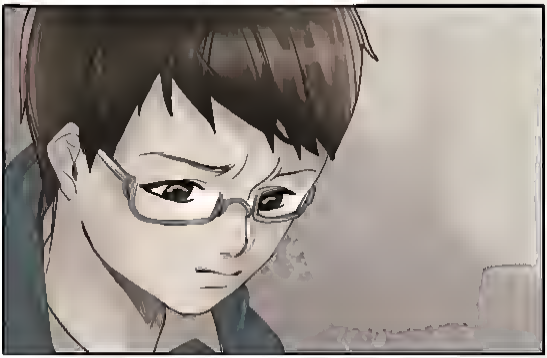

OF COURSE! HAHA... HE'S A GREAT KID.
YOU REMEMBER THE PROMISE YOU MADE, RIGHT?
..WHAT? YOU'RE WORKING LATE AGAIN?
BUT.. HE WAS SO EXCITED..
VROOOM
CRASH
BOOM

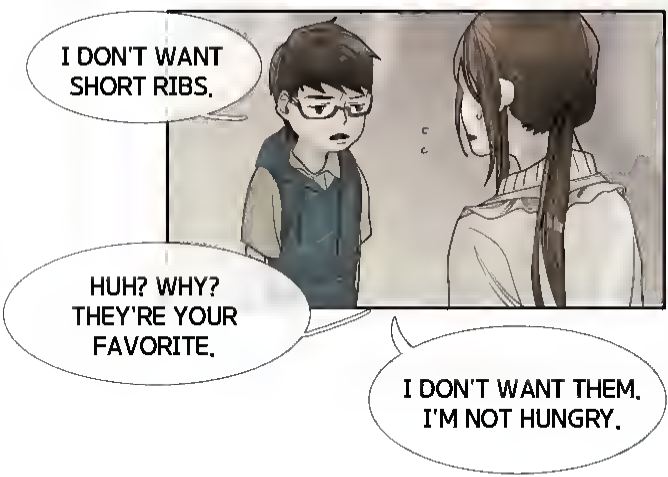
TADA~
I MADE YOUR FAVORITE FOOD SWEETIE- SHORT RIBS!
DROOL


WHERE'S DAD?
DAD LOVES SHORT RIBS TOO...
.....

GRAB
UM.. SANGMIN..


YOUR DAD REALLY WANTED TO GO TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK WITH YOU,
BUT HE'S REALLY BUSY RIGHT NOW, SO HE TOLD ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE'S SO, SO SORRY.
AGAIN?!




I DON'T WANT SHORT RIBS.
HUH? WHY? THEY'RE YOUR FAVORITE.
I DON'T WANT THEM. I'M NOT HUNGRY.

RESTLESS
RESTLESS

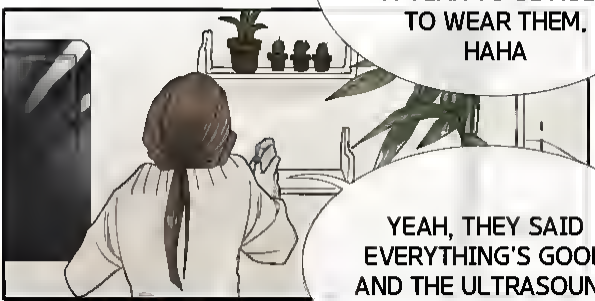
.....

I HATE SHORT RIBS!
I DON'T EVER WANNA
EAT THEM!!

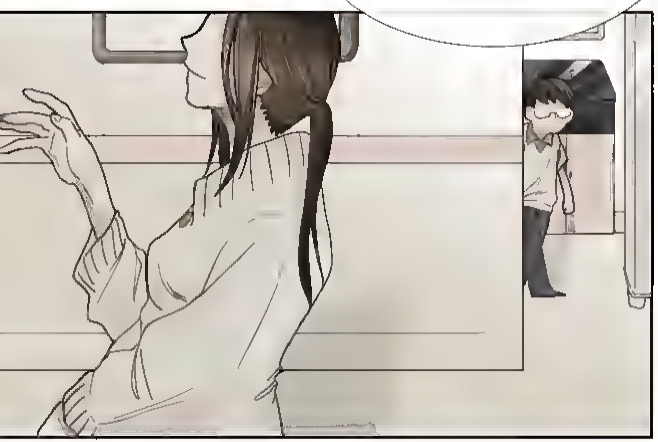
HI, HONEY. THE PACKAGE CAME TODAY.

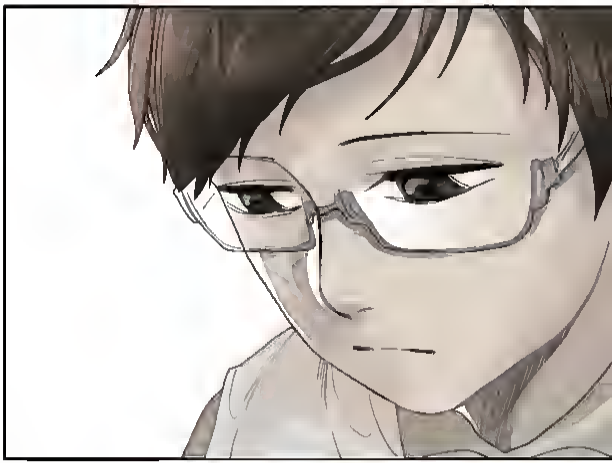
THE BABY SHOES ARE REALLY NICE...

BUT HE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO WAIT AT LEAST A YEAR TO BE ABLE TO WEAR THEM. HAHA



YEAH, THEY SAID EVERYTHING'S GOOD AND THE ULTRASOUND WENT WELL...

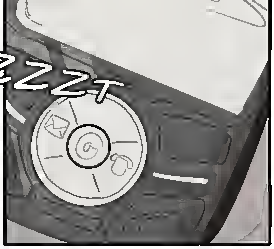




WHISH
UGH
.....

TOSS
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
WHOOSH

WHOOOOO
WH
UGH, STUPID RAIN. WHY ISN'T SHE ANSWERING?
EVERYONE ELSE ALREADY WENT HOME. I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT..



BZZZZZZT

BZZZZT

BZZZZT

BZZZZZZT

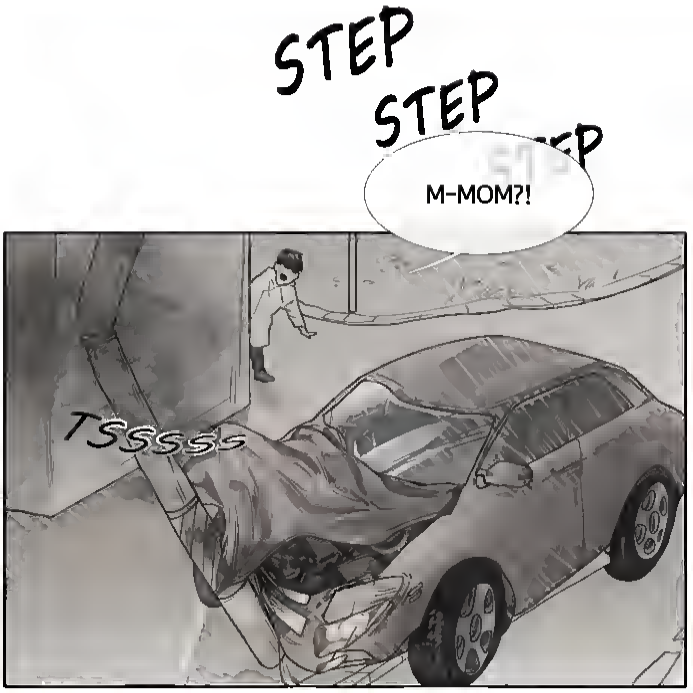
BEEP

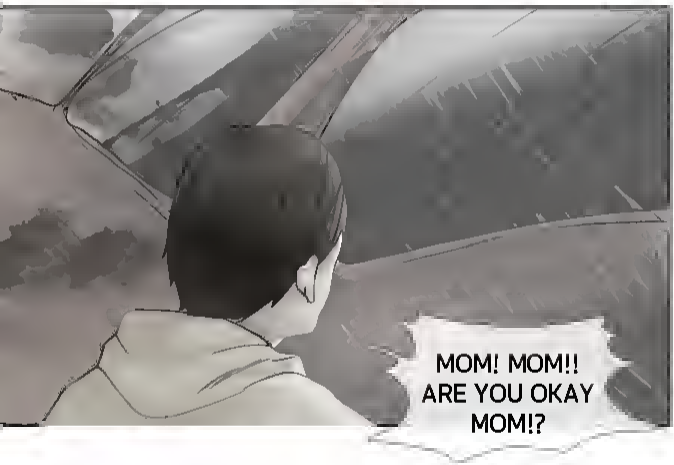
HELLO?

WHERE ARE YOU MOM?! I'M GETTING ALL WET!!
SORRY DARLING! I'LL BE THERE IN 2 MINUTES
WHOOOOSH
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE!
WHERE ARE YOU REALLY?!!

YOU MUST BE COLD-
WHIIIISH
I'LL BE THERE SOON, REALLY. I'M JUST TURNING THE LAST CORNER, SO COME OUT FRONT-..
CRASH!!
JUMP

THUD

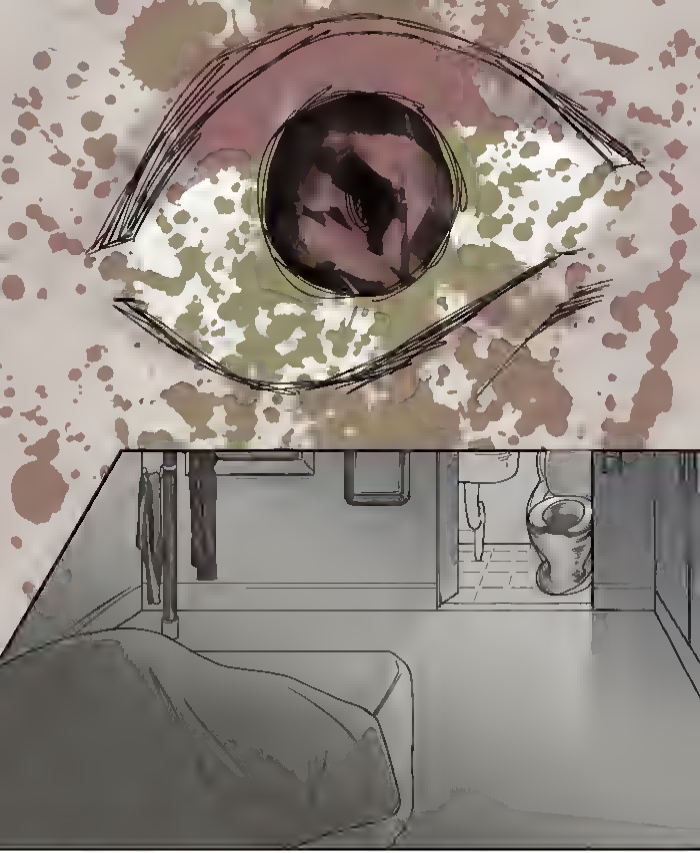

STEP
STEP
M-MOM?!
TSSSSS


MOM! MOM!!
ARE YOU OKAY
MOM!?

DRIBBLE

CLICK
SANGMIN...
I'M OKAY,
I'M NOT HU-..
WINCE
UGH!

RETCH
RETCH



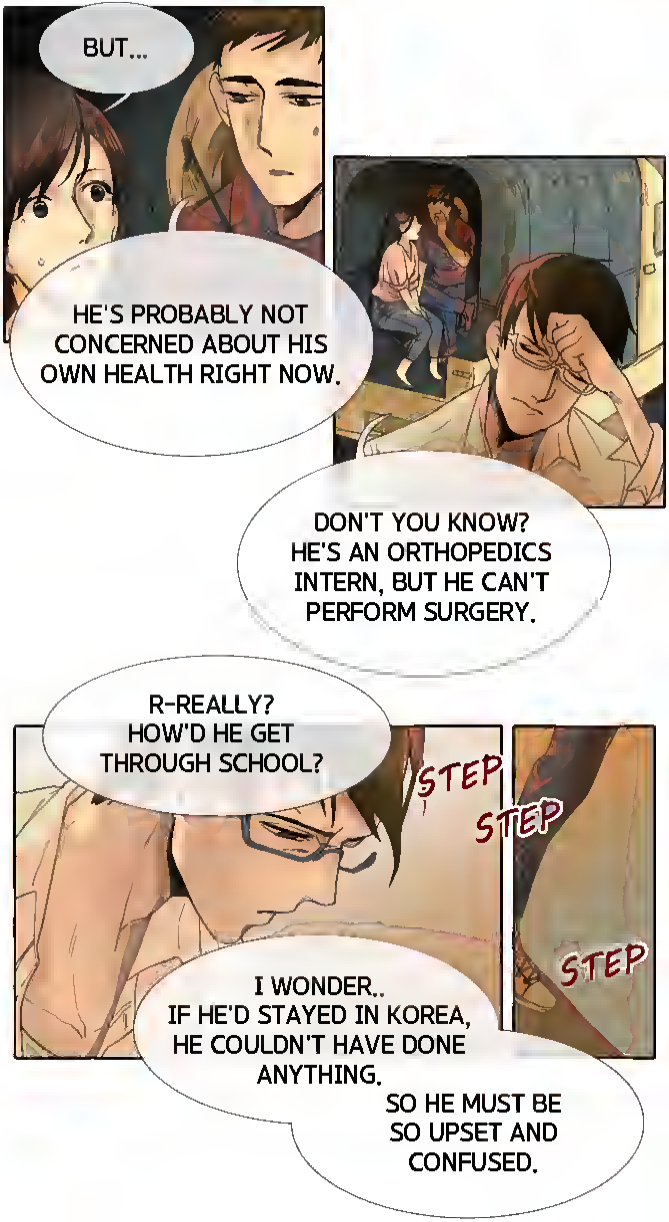
PEEK

GASP

I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY
SANGMIN!!
HUFF

ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT KIND OF NIGHTMARE WERE YOU HAVING??
BLINK
AH...
YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF SO MUCH. WHY NOT REST FOR A WHILE?
I'M FINE.
JUST BEING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY IS EXHAUSTING- YOU REALLY NEED TO TAKE IT EASY...

JUST REST HERE FOR A BIT. IT'S LUNCH TIME, ANYWAY.
HELP THE KIDS
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME PILLS FOR THE NAUSEA.
DO YOU NEED TO EAT SOMETHING WITH THESE?
I'LL PASS ON LUNCH. I'M JUST GONNA GO TAKE A LITTLE WALK.
STEP
SANGMIN!!
JUST LET HIM GO.


BUT...
HE'S PROBABLY NOT CONCERNED ABOUT HIS OWN HEALTH RIGHT NOW.
DON'T YOU KNOW? HE'S AN ORTHOPEDICS INTERN, BUT HE CAN'T PERFORM SURGERY.
R-REALLY? HOW'D HE GET THROUGH SCHOOL?
STEP
STEP
STEP
I WONDER.. IF HE'D STAYED IN KOREA, HE COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING.
SO HE MUST BE SO UPSET AND CONFUSED.

HE SAYS HE CAME HERE AS A VOLUNTEER, BUT IT'S MORE LIKE HE RAN AWAY FROM HOME.

THEY'RE RIGHT. I DID RUN AWAY. WHAT KIND OF DOCTOR IS AFRAID OF BLOOD..

BUT I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT MY JOB.. I FEEL SO GUILTY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PARENTS..

PEEK

HEY...

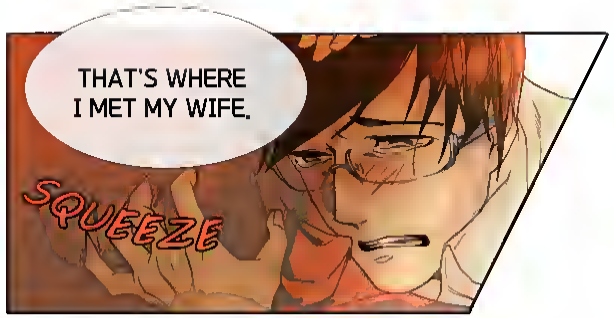
DID YOU SAY

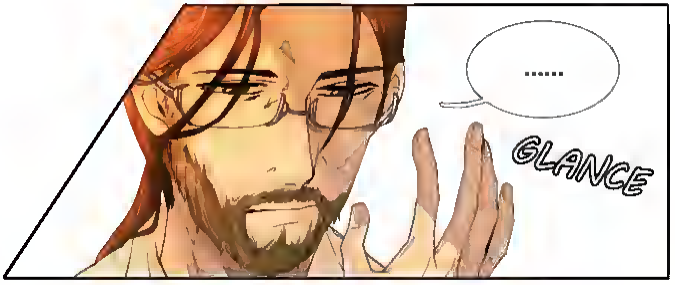
WE'RE GOING TO BAGLUNG TODAY?

YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST,
AND YOU CAN'T TURN BACK TIME

THAT'S WHERE,

I MET YOU.


THAT'S WHERE
I MET MY WIFE.
SQUEEZE


.....
GLANCE

THEY SAY THAT
"WHEN HEAVEN CLOSES ONE DOOR,
IT OPENS ANOTHER."

GRAB

EVEN IN THE TOUGHEST,
SADDEST MOMENTS

SITA

THIS TIME
EVEN IF IT'S HARD,
LET'S GIVE LIFE A CHANCE.
I'M GONNA HELP YOU.